

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of May 24, 2007. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in this application, with claims 6, 8, 9, and 10 being indicated to be free of the prior art. Claim 3 is amended to recite the features of claim 9, and claim 9 is accordingly cancelled, without prejudice. Inasmuch as each of claims 4-6, 8, and 10-20 depends directly or indirectly from claim 3, this constitutes an amendment of claims 3-6, 8, and 10-20. Claims 3-6, 8, and 10-21 are now pending in the application.

Double patenting

At the bottom of page 2 and at the top of page 3 of the Office Action, claims in the present application are rejected on the ground of double patenting over claims in Applicant's copending application Serial No. 11/783,705. Applicant will cancel conflicting claims 2, 6, and 7 from the "reference" application. It is respectfully submitted that this will result in a clear line of demarcation between both applications.

Prior art rejection

On pages 3-5 of the Office Action, claims 3-5 and 11-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,071,459 (Warner) in view of US 6,465,590 B1 (Maughon). Since claim 9 was not rejected on this ground, and since independent claim 3 now recites the features of former claim 9, this ground of rejection does not apply to claims 3-5 and 11-20 in their current form. With respect to claim 21, it is pointed out that claim 21 requires – among other things – “polymerizing a polymerizable composition ... without completely

crosslinking the polymerizable composition ... and then crosslinking said post-crosslinkable thermoplastic resin to form the insoluble polymer.” Neither Warner nor Maughon nor any combination thereof is seen to suggest this two-step approach to polymerization to form an insoluble polymer. With regard to the formation of insoluble polymers by employing a chain transfer agent, the Examiner’s attention is respectfully directed to WO 00/71544 (WO ‘544), which had previously been cited in this application. Whenever insoluble polymers are formed in WO ‘544, which is always in the absence of a crosslinking agent, a chain transfer agent is added to resolubilize the polymer. More specifically, the Examiner’s attention is directed to Example 6 of the WO ‘544 reference, which teaches that the catalysts thereof are capable of polymerizing a variety of low strain cyclic olefins including cyclooctadiene, cyclooctene and several functionalized and sterically hindered derivatives with extremely low catalyst loadings. The inclusion of acyclic olefins which act as chain transfer agents controlled the molecular weights. This addition of chain transfer agents makes the undesirable insoluble polymers soluble. It is manifest that the invention of Applicant’s claim 21 is not obvious based upon a consideration of the prior art as a whole. Withdrawal of the rejection of record with respect to claim 21 is in order and is earnestly solicited.

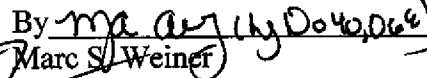
Contact information

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher, Reg. No. 28,781, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 19, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Marc S. Weiner

Registration No.: 32,181

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant